Losses suffered by BSNL

987. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has suffered losses of crores of rupees on account of the existing international long distance revenue sharing arrangements with private basic operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take remedial measures to check such losses of BSNL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The present revenue sharing arrangement for the international long distance calls originated from the network of private basic operators has resulted in losses to BSNL as their cost of further carriage of traffic is more than the revenue share they get.

(c) and (d) BSNL as a service provider have brought this aspect to the notice of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). BSNL have also taken up this issue with the private basic service operators and held meetings and discussions with all of them to explain the anomalies arising out of the existing arrangement and the need to revise this in a way which is fair, just and equitable to all the operators. The private basic service operators, however, have not agreed to the proposals of BSNL and have taken up the matter with Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Telephone on demand in Bangalore

988. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether phone on demand facility has been provided in Bangalore City;

(b) if not, how many people are waiting for phone connection so far in Bangalore City; and

(c) by when the phone on demand facility would be a reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Out of total 51 exchange areas in Bangalore City, telephone is available 'On Demand' in 16 exchange areas.

(b) As on 30.06.2001, 40854 applicants are on waiting list for phone connection in Bangalore City.

(c) It is planned to make available telephones in Bangalore City On Demand' by March 2002.

Fraudulent activities of STD/ISD/PCO booth operators

989. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to minimise the cheating of innocent customers by STD/ISD/PCO booth operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would set up a mechanism to detect such fraudulent activities of STD/ISD/PCO booth operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following step have been taken to minimize the cheating by the STD/ISD/PCO both operators:

(i) The franchisee is permitted to use interface approved terminal equipment only which should not be programmable locally.

(ii) The STD/ISD/PCO franchisee is required to display at some prominent place of his establishment, the distance slab wise rate chart for charging of calls for different periods of day and night, as well as for normal days/holidays for the information of the public. Apart from this, the list of National/International stations with charging pulse for each station must be available with the franchisee for inspection by the public, as and when required.

(iii) The franchisee is also required to display the designation,